

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Amended) An x-ray mask tool, comprising:

a silicon substrate having a first thickness, a top surface , and a bottom ~~surfaces~~ surface substantially parallel to said top surface, ~~said silicon substrate comprising one or more open cavities etched into said top surface and extending into said substrate thickness, each of said one or more open cavities having one or more surfaces wherein some of said surfaces are non-prismatic surfaces, said surfaces extending to different depths into said substrate thickness said~~

~~open cavities filled with a metal deposit to provide a plurality of metal structures embedded into said silicon substrate; and~~

a three-dimensional metal structure embedded into said silicon substrate and about flush with said top surface, said three-dimensional metal structure comprising a second thickness less than said first thickness, and one or more regions, wherein said second thickness varies continuously across a length and width of said three-dimensional metal structure thereby providing a floor surface in each of said one or more regions which varies in a curvilinear manner.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) The x-ray mask tool of claim 12, wherein said metal deposit is a metal selected from the group consisting of the Transition series of metals listed in New IUPAC Group Numbers 4 – 12 of the Period Table of elements, aluminum, tin, and alloys thereof.

18. (Original) The x-ray mask tool of claim 12, wherein said metal deposit consists essentially of gold.

19. (Amended) The x-ray mask tool of claim 17, wherein said metal deposit comprises a thin vapor deposited ~~first~~ metal layer.

20. (Amended) The x-ray mask tool of claim 19, wherein said thin vapor deposited ~~first~~ metal

layer comprises ~~a first layer of~~ chromium.

**21. (Original)** The x-ray mask tool of claim 19, wherein said metal deposit is deposited by electroplating.

**22. (Original)** The x-ray mask tool of claim 19, wherein said metal deposit is deposited by electroless deposition.

**23. (Original)** The x-ray mask tool of claim 19, wherein said metal deposit is deposited by thermal or particle vapor deposition, or by sputter deposition.

**24. (Canceled)**

**25. (Canceled)**

**26. (Canceled)**

**27. (Canceled)**

**28. (Canceled)**

**29. (Canceled)**

**30. (Canceled)**

**31. (Canceled)**

**32. (Canceled)**

**33. (Canceled)**